

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10
SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 DHA-02
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O P 151706Z DEC WUY
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8781
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS LONDON 20257

GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CROSLAND'S PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT
AND REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

1. WE QUOTE BELOW THE IMPORTANT PARAGRAPHS OF FOREIGN
SECRETARY CROSLAND'S STATEMENT ON RHODESIA IN THE
COMMONS, DECEMBER 14:

BEGIN TEXT: AFTER CONSULTING WITH MR. IVOR RICHARD LAST
WEEK, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE STAGE HAS NOW BEEN
REACHED WHERE BRITAIN SHOULD ATTEMPT TO GIVE A FRESH
IMPETUS TO THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION.

BUT IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT THIS PROCESS IS MORE LIKELY
TO BE SUCCESSFUL IF IT IS NOT INITIATED DURING THE NORMAL
MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE.

WE NOW NEED A FURTHER PERIOD OF INTENSIVE CONSULTA-
TIONS, IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, TO ENABLE US TO LAY THE FOUNDA
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TIONS FOR AN AGREEMENT ON THIS FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION. I HAVE THEREFORE AUTHORIZED THE CHAIRMAN TO ADJOURN THE CONFERENCE TO PERMIT SUCH CONSULTATIONS TO TAKE PLACE. THE CONFERENCE WILL GO INTO RECESS TODAY AND WILL RESUME IN GENEVA ON JANUARY 17.

I HAVE ASKED MR. RICHARD, AS THE GOVERNMENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, TO LEAVE FOR AFRICA IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHRISTMAS IN ORDER TO CONSULT WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED. HE WILL DEVELOP OUR POSITIVE IDEAS FOR A SETTLEMENT, WHICH WILL INCLUDE IN PARTICULAR THE DIRECT ROLE WHICH BRITAIN WOULD BE READY TO PLAY IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

IF, AT THE END OF HIS CONSULTATIONS, IT PROVES NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE, I WOULD MYSELF GO EITHER TO AFRICA OR TO THE RESUMED CONFERENCE AT GENEVA. THE HOUSE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT I MUST REFRAIN FROM SETTING OUT OUR IDEAS IN DETAIL TODAY. I WOULD SAY ONLY THAT OUR INTENTION WILL BE TO MEET THE CONCERN OF THE NATIONALISTS THAT THE PROCESS OF TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE SHOULD BE RAPID AND GUARANTEED, AND THE ANXIETIES OF THE EUROPEANS THAT IT SHOULD BE ORDERLY. IT IS THE GENERAL FEELING AMONGST THE DELEGATES AT GENEVA THAT AN ADJOURNMENT OF SOME WEEKS WOULD NOW BE THE BEST WAY OF CARRYING OUR WORK FORWARD TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. I MAY ADD THAT DR. KISSINGER, WHOM I CONSULTED OVER THE WEEKEND, ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PROPOSED PROCEDURE. END TEXT

2. IN THE QUESTION PERIOD WHICH FOLLOWED, CROSLAND EMPHASIZED THAT A BRITISH ROLE IN A RHODESIAN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT INCLUDE BRITISH TROOPS. HE ALSO UNDERSCORED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE NEW BRITISH INITIATIVE. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSION, CROSLAND REPLIED TO ONE QUESTION BY ANNOUNCING THE STATUS OF THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND: "WE ARE NEGOTIATING AFTER LONG DISCUSSION WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT THE LAUNCHING OF WHAT I HOPE WILL BE AN INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF HELPING THE TRANSFER TO INDEPENDENCE, OF GIVING ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE TO HELP WITH FURTHER EDUCATION FOR THE AFRICAN POPULATION AND ALSO TO EASE THE TRANSITION FOR THE WHITE POPULATION. UNCLASSIFIED

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I EXPECT IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS TO BE SENDING OUT LETTERS, AND DR. KISSINGER WILL BE SENDING SIMILAR LETTERS, TO A NUMBER OF FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS ASKING THEM TO CONTRIBUTE.

3. DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION CROSLAND DODGED ONE QUESTION ABOUT A PROSPECTIVE BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY RELATING TO DEFENSE AND LAW AND ORDER IN THE TRANSITION

GOVERNMENT. LATER THAT EVENING ON TELEVISION, HOWEVER,
CROSLAND SAID THAT BRITAIN WOULD BE WILLING TO PLAY A
ROLE IN RHODESIA'S SECURITY AFFAIRS.

ARMSTRONG

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